CLAIMS

1. A storage library for storing storage devices, comprising:

a media drive module having a frame configured to support a media drive, a power supply, and interface communication electronics; and

a library housing having:

storage bins for storing storage devices,

a mechanism for transferring storage devices, and

an opening for receiving two or more media drive modules.

2. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the frame includes one or more slots for receiving a media drive.

3. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module is configured to include four media drives.

4. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module is configured to include two media drives.

5. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module is configured to include one media drive.

6. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module includes a media drive operable to receive and release a storage device.

7. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the storage devices include magnetic tape cartridges.

8. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive includes a magnetic tape drive.

9. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module includes one or more power supplies to support the maximum number of media drives that the media drive module may include.

10. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module includes interface communication electronics configured to communicate with a library controller.

11. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the media drive module includes data path bridge/control electronics.

12. The storage library of claim 1, wherein the library housing includes an open architecture for receiving the media drive module.

13. A device for modularly adding one or more media drives in a storage library, comprising:

a frame configured to include one or more media drives, a power supply, and interface communication electronics, wherein

the frame includes at least one slot for receiving the one or more media drives, and

the frame is adapted for modular insertion within a storage library.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame further includes one or more slots for receiving the interface communication electronics.

15. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame is further configured to include optional data path bridge/control electronics.

16. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame is configured to include two media drives.

17. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame is configured to include four media drives.

18. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame is configured to include one media drive.

19. The device of claim 13, wherein the one or more media drives are operable to receive and release storage devices.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the storage devices include magnetic tape cartridges.

21. The device of claim 13, wherein the one or more media drives includes a magnetic tape drive.

22. The device of claim 13, wherein the frame includes one or more power supplies to support the maximum number of media drives that the frame may include.

23. The device of claim 13, wherein the interface communication electronics are configured to be in communication with a library controller.

24. A method for including media drives in a storage library, comprising:

modularly adding a frame to a storage library housing, the frame configured to include a number of media drives, a power supply, and an interface communications board, wherein

the frame includes at least one slot for receiving the number of drives, and

the power supply and the interface communication electronics are sufficient to support the number of drives.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the number of media drives is 4.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the number of media drives is 2.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the number of media drives is 1.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the media drives include magnetic tape drives.

29. The method of claim 24, wherein the frame is configured to be added to an opening of a storage library system housing.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the frame is removable from the storage library housing.

31. The method of claim 24, further including testing the operation of at least one of the media drives, the power supply, and the interface communication electronics when associated with the frame and before modularly adding the frame to the storage library housing.